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## SHOULD WE AVOID POLITICS?

It is related by a candidate for a political office in a western state in England, that during his canvass he asked a raw countryman, who was tending sheep, to give him his vote. "Vote?" inquired the man of flocks, removing his hat to stimulate the flow of his ideas. "Vote? What he that, h'ever?" "Do you take no interest in politics, that you don't know what a vote is?" retorted the other. A ray of comprehension pierced the shepherd's brain. "I know the or'nary sort of tick, but I've never heard of these politicians afore. I s'pose 'tis a fresh kind." That story illustrates the extreme of ignorance. There is another extreme to the subject of politics, and that is indifference. In America, while there is a great deal of ignorance on political questions, the evil of indifference is much greater, and extends to more classes of the population. The educated and wealthy are often as careless in reference to public questions and candidates, as the less-informed and poorer classes. Indeed, many assume an air of superiority when they avow that they "take no stock in politics," and speak of "politicians" as though they were to be either snubbed or ignored.

In a "government of the people, for the people and by the people," every individual capable of voting should take an interest in politics. It is not necessary to be a professional "politician," a wire-puller, a log-roller, a schemer for place and pelf, a manipulator for some scheme or person. But a citizen entrusted with the power of the ballot, ought to use it for good purposes, and therefore should have some knowledge of the questions to be decided and of the candidates to be voted for at an election, and should have sufficient interest in these public matters to form an intelligent opinion concerning them.

It is not to be expected that the masses of the people will be deep students of political theories, or zealous advocates of party measures and nominees. But they ought to bestow sufficient attention upon them to arrive at a personal conviction as to the course they should pursue in relation to them.

In a country where the people are governed by monarchical or aristocratic power, ignorance and indifference as to ruling influences and political measures may be to some extent pardonable. But in this great Republic in which the people are sovereign, and where the responsibility for wrong policies and incompetent or dishonest officials rests upon the people who vote for them, both ignorance and indifference are inexcusable.

That there is much deception, chicanery and trickery in political methods can be frankly admitted. But that forms no reason for the apathy of many thousands of American citizens, as to matters that concern them all, and in which everyone of them should take an interested and active part. Citizenship not only brings privileges and rights but duties and responsibilities.

These, however, do not involve intense partisanship. There are higher considerations than the success of a political party or faction. Truth, right, reason and the general welfare, are far above mere partisan measures and the triumph of partisan candidates. "Good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold," is the divine injunction. That should be a guide in political movements, especially to the people who form the majority in Utah.

But this does not necessarily signify lack of zeal, in promoting any measure or the claims of any party nominee for public office. "What thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," and "whatever is worth doing is worth doing well," are sayings equally applicable and worthy of practice. When a man or woman becomes convinced of the justice and propriety of any political project, decided by the majority of a party to which he or she is attached, vigor and vigilance in promoting it are to be expected, and are worthy of commendation rather than ridicule or reproach.

Activity and enthusiasm, however, should not extend to unfair conduct or any kind of misrepresentation. It is shameful when either party abuses, maligns and defames the other. The common practice of perverting the views and aims of political opponents, is one of the most potent causes of the withdrawal from active politics of so many estimable citizens. It is deplorable and seems to be incurable. It should be dropped and condemned by the respectable among all the parties of the country, until decency is secured and respect for truth and honor is established.

It is not right to regard with ill-favor or disdain, the legitimate efforts of aspirants to public office to obtain they ought to pursue in relation to it is seldom that an office seeks the

man when the man does not seek the office, and it is not known whether he will make sufficient effort to obtain it after it is tendered him. The political arena now-a-days calls for mighty struggles and strong gladiators. The people follow, they do not lead; and unless a candidate enters the fray with a determination to succeed, he is likely to be thrown down without mercy. This is the situation, whatever may be thought of its righteousness or propriety.

The lesson of it all is, that politics should not be avoided by the right-minded and the pure, but ought to be of sufficient interest to arouse the energies of the best people of every community. If politics needs purifying who shall perform the task? The impure and the charlatan? If the welfare of the country is the object to be attained, is the work to be left to the lower or unscrupulous elements to manipulate? There is no more respectable and praiseworthy avenue open to human effort than that which affords opportunity for the exercise of man's noblest powers, in the establishment and maintenance of perfect popular government, and that means politics in its highest sense and grandest influences and effects.

## THE CHINESE DISPATCHES.

There seems to be an impression in Washington that the Chinese government is about to open negotiations with the foreign powers, through members of the Tsung-li-Yamen, who, according to advices from Minister Conger, have returned to Peking. At the same time it is learned, through French channels of information, that rumors of fighting in the capital city have reached St. Petersburg, and that the allied forces have lost heavily in dead and wounded. These rumors possibly are unfounded. Still they suggest that there is no general confidence in China's peaceful intentions.

It is difficult to understand how the present Chinese knot can be disentangled by means of negotiations. Were China a power with western standards of truth and honesty, there would be some common ground to meet on. But she is not. China's ideas of truth are as different from ours, as is the cut of clothes in vogue in that country. Her diplomats have the reputation of excelling in "lying for their country." Their sophistry is bold to audacity. And yet they are horrified at the rudeness that characterizes such sophistry as mendacity. According to their standards, they are no more guilty of telling what is not true, than are our diplomats, when they speak of "spheres of influence," "substantial indemnities" and "rectification of boundary lines," all of which are modern terms for the old-fashioned "annexation of territory."

The length to which Chinese diplomacy can go in the employment of sophistry is illustrated in the following description of the treatment of foreign ambassadors in China on a former occasion. The paragraph is from the Literary Digest:

"The prisoners in the hands of the Chinese in 1860 were the Frenchmen Col. Foulon, de Grandchamp, Captain Chanoine, Lieutenant Ader and Gagny, Lieutenant Dubut, Interpreter Dulac, and the diplomats de Laurence, de Jastard, and de Merlaut. Of Englishmen, there were Lieutenant Colonel Alder, Lieutenant Anderson, The Times correspondent Boswell, and Messrs. Loch and Parks. The Chinese were informed that negotiations could not be opened unless the prisoners were given up. Prince Gong said 'yes,' but it was a Chinese 'yes,' which means no more than a Chinese no. He repeated the old story: the prisoners were well, they would be released when peace had been concluded, their presence was needed in Peking as hostages. The march of the allies was continued. The Chinese then sent back five of the prisoners, M. de Laurence seemed to have grown a head smaller. He was dressed in an old Chinese woman's skirt. His tortured hands had assumed an S shape. He had been fettered with ropes which, when he complained, were wetted to make them shrink, and thus cut deeper into his flesh. Yet while he was thus treated, Prince Gong had written an hollow to Baron Gros, offering the honor to inform you that I have given orders that M. de Laurence shall be treated with the greatest consideration and respect. A few days later the rest of the prisoners were turned. 'We are bringing them, they are all here,' pleasantly cried the little mandarin who walked in front of the vehicle. There was a wild jumble of half-rotten coffee and coffeeless skeletons in the Chinese prison demanded that the entire skeletons of those who had been tortured to death should be returned."

When statements thus contradict the facts, we call them wilful falsehoods, but a Chinese scholar, such as Li Hung Chang, can prove from the classics of his country, that a man must be considered "well," as long as the skeleton is intact. He can prove that a prisoner, even if tortured, is treated with "the greatest consideration and respect," as long as the torture is applied with due politeness. A mandarin will deny that he killed a prisoner, if, for instance, he simply left him to starve to death. Such are Chinese ideals of truth. In such sophistry Chinese diplomacy excels. How can the Occident and Orient settle their differences by means of negotiations, which by one party, if not by both, are interpreted only to be broken, and about which there is no common understanding as to their meaning? Negotiations did not liberate the foreigners in Peking. It took an army to open the gates for them. Treaties will not solve the Chinese problem. If the western world feels called upon to force a solution here, it must do so by its physical superiority.

This seems also to be the view of the different governments. There is some talk about seizing the customs receipts of the country in order to secure the payment of the indemnity that is to be paid. At the same time there are signs that the Russians, Germans and Japanese are about to help themselves to territory in different parts of the country. What China needs, and what the world needs in China, is a stable, honest government, in touch with the family of nations. That this object could be best gained by the separation of the racially divergent provinces into independent states, appears probable. That would give a new impetus to national life in the vast country. It would remove the "yellow danger" and also further excuse for European expansion in that direction. Whether the western powers are unselfish enough to

consent to such an arrangement is another question. They are in China for annexation and not for the establishment of permanent Asiatic governments. But in all events, the United States has commercial interests to guard in that part of the globe, and those interests should be considered in the further development of the national relations.

## ANOTHER BOER CAPTURED.

The Boers have lost another of their generals at a time when they seem to have rallied for a new effort at resisting the invading army. This time it is General Olivier, who at an early stage of the war marched a small force of Boers past the entire British army, and arrived at his destination in safety, notwithstanding all efforts to intercept him. One by one the trusty leaders fall, yielding to the superior number and resources of the enemy.

The dispatches from South Africa also announce that the Boers, after consultation with Kruger and Steyn, have resolved to make a final stand in the Lydenburg district. It is believed that this mountainous region has been well fortified and made almost impregnable. It is said to be well provided with ammunition and food. The valleys between the mountains are well watered and productive, so that the army can sustain itself there for a long period. If the plan is carried out, it may take a long time before these mountain fastnesses can be taken and their defenders subdued. But then, as long as the British are in possession of the entire country outside this district, it does not appear how the defense of the Lydenburg mountains can be of any permanent benefit to the Boers.

## BEECHER INNOCENT.

New particulars seem to have come to light in the once famous Henry Ward Beecher trial, by which the noted preacher is cleared of every lingering shadow of suspicion. Two or three letters which were ascribed to Beecher, and which were very damaging to him, are now declared to have been forged. The statement is made on the authority of the British Weekly, one of the most trustworthy of the religious journals of the Congregational denomination; and it is regarded as absolutely reliable. Henry Ward Beecher ranked high among the Protestant preachers of this century. He was a power in our national life. It is therefore gratifying to the American public to learn that every stain on his memory has been removed. His friends, of course, never doubted his innocence, but a spot on a clerical robe is difficult to remove. It is much better to know that it never existed except in the imagination of the uninformed or the fabrications of enemies.

## SENATOR INGALLS'S LETTER.

The following anecdote, in which the late Senator John J. Ingalls is said to have received a letter from a deceased friend, a year after his death, is told by a Port. Scott correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. If it is true it is well worth repeating. The writer says:

"The death of John J. Ingalls recalls a remarkable incident in his life, which he related to a small company of friends in this city recently, and which has never been published. He had been to a big picnic at Redfield, in this county, and was coming home on the train when a party sitting together in the coach, among whom was Rev. C. T. Durbin, then pastor of the First Methodist church here, began discussing the wisdom of Providence in taking from life a noble young Christian lady of this city. Mr. Ingalls confessed his inability to comprehend the divine mind. He related the facts of the death of a promising young boy in the streets of Atchison. The boy was caught under a street car and ground to death while playing ball in the street, and the distinguished Senator asked why, if God had seen fit to take the child's life, He should not have caused him to be so horribly mutilated. Then he told a strange story. He had just received a letter from a friend who had been dead quite a year. The letter purported to have been addressed to Ingalls, and was of a confidential personal character, expressing great happiness on the part of the deceased friend. 'I knew that friend's handwriting as well as I know my own,' stated Mr. Ingalls, and if this letter was not written by my friend, whose funeral I attended a year ago, it was the most perfect counterfeit I ever saw. The signature was his. In it he promised to send me a copy of his new book, 'The Kingdom of God is Within You.' Now, of course, there could have been nothing in this apparently supernatural incident, but I confess that I am experiencing some anxiety in regard to it. I always confide everything to my wife, but you may believe I never told her of that letter. The friends of Mr. Ingalls to whom he related this strange circumstance never learned the details of the mystery, but they are somewhat curious to know how near it came to being correct."

According to II Chron., chapter 21: 12, King Jehoram received a letter from the deceased Prophet Elijah, but in modern times no such communication with departed persons is known to have occurred. Senator Ingalls's letter should be given to the public, with all the circumstances that may throw any light upon it. Our age, notwithstanding its enlightenment, is given to credulity, and a great many persons are easily imposed upon.

The last stand of the Boers at Machedorp seems to have been a tumble.

The insurrection in Persia is said by the Shah to be not serious. Nevertheless he will hurry home to put it down, if he can.

American coal to furnish the British navy is all right for Britain now, but it makes a notable decadence of an important item of British commerce.

The line of communication between Peking and Tien Tsin is a hard road to travel just now. Even the allies' dispatches cannot get through without mutilation.

The allies have got one Chinese notable as a prisoner. That is Li Hung Chang. They can let him know the truth now, even though they may not be able to make him tell it.

The persistent reports that the allies in China cannot agree suggests that while any one of the powers concerned could give the Chinese army a bad beating, the disagreeing combination gives China an opportunity to beat them all.

The State of Idaho has nearly three times as much population as Salt Lake

City. The Gem of the Mountains has considerable room to grow yet. Still, it is taking good advantage of opportunities.

The United States did not send a warship to Tangier to bring the Sultan of Morocco to time. The vessel mistaken for a fighter was the Massachusetts State school ship, and its presence seems to have taught the Sultan a lesson.

The Pope refused King Humbert "absolution" unless the King would abdicate and give up Rome as a part of the Italian possessions. The respective values set upon "absolution" and the crown by Humbert are shown in the fact that the latter didn't abdicate.

The trouble between Roumania and Bulgaria is drawing nearer to a crisis. War seems certain there, and whether it will be stopped at an early date or will ignite the whole combustible heap of the Eastern powers, which now show belligerent tendencies.

"Look out for those plockpockets," was a warning given by Mr. Bryan to the crowd at Barnston, Neb., last week. The assemblage heeded well that admonition, whatever they did with the rest of his speech, and several persons hustled out of the crowd in a way that indicated guilty consciences.

In considering whether or not Germany will consent to the present reigning dynasty remaining in power in China, it is well to remember that Germany has official advice that her minister, Baron Von Ketteler, was not slain by Boxers or by a mob, but by regular Chinese policemen, under orders from their superior officers.

It is said that the Boers have been defeated at what has been termed as Botha's last stand. If the report is true, then the war should be over quickly. In that event the continued shipment of British soldiers to South Africa looks a little strange, for not even colonization would be left them as a profitable and necessary procedure.

## IN CHINA.

New York Evening Sun.  
If the Dowager empress, together with the rightful ruler of the empire, were to hand over the throne, the work of bringing order out of chaos would be helped enormously. It would be possible for the powers to set themselves to the important task of re-establishing a stable and responsible government. As the dowager is only an usurper, who attained to influence by sheer usurpation, with nothing sacred about her individually, there would be little difficulty in putting an end to her influence and authority.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

But the maintenance of the present dynasty, he it remarked, does not necessarily involve the support of the dowager empress. If the young emperor Kwang Hsu is alive and can be found it is probable that with the support of the powers he could take up the work which his reactionary aunt interrupted two years ago. But so deep are the prejudices of the Chinese populace, and so sensitive to foreign interference, that the talk of choosing, establishing and maintaining a ruler is likely to be prolonged and delicate unless the powers pursue the obvious course of recognizing the titular emperor Kwang Hsu. Even if the rivalries and jealousies of the powers could be eliminated from the problem the solution will require the highest degree of tact.

## Los Angeles Express.

Li Hung Chang proposes the holding of an international conference for the settlement of the entire Chinese question, which is a sensible proposition, though not original with the Monarchist diplomat, and it is probable that something of that sort will be done as soon as the pressing business in hand about the walls of the sacred city is concluded, and the whereabouts of the responsible government is located.

## Cleveland Plain Dealer.

One of the quoted authorities for the stories of horrible massacres of Chinese non-combatants by Russian troops at Tien-Tsin and the one most worthy of credence, having voluntarily deposed to the Russian embassy that she made any statement of the kind, and testified from her personal observation to a totally different behavior by the Russian soldiers, there is reason to hope that all the stories of this kind were without foundation. The nationality and official position of the Englishwoman who makes the disclaimer entitles her testimony to the original story was evidently set at naught with the object of making prejudice against the Russians among English readers.

## Chicago Record.

The success of this diplomacy up to the present is of especial importance in view of the precarious situation at Peking today. The legations have been rescued, but the real difficulties, apparent, are but beginning. With the emperor in flight and the Chinese government holding only the name and shadow of authority and with Li Hung Chang, alleged spokesman for that government, apparently in flight, the Chinese forces are still fighting the allies, Peking has become a political bedlam.

## Springfield Republican.

Many people are beginning to wonder now that the United States legation has been rescued what business an officer of the German emperor will have commanding American troops in China.

## Chicago Times-Herald.

But the President's reply to the emperor's appeal and Secretary Hay's note of July 1 both prove that our government has no thought of destroying Chinese authority or seizing Chinese territory. After insisting on the liberation of legations and the protection of foreigners the President said: "If these objects are accomplished it is the belief of this government that no obstacles will be found to exist on the part of the powers to an amicable settlement of all the questions arising out of the recent troubles and the friendly good offices of this government will, with the assent of the other powers, be cheerfully placed at your majesty's disposition for that purpose."

## New York Evening Post.

The great danger is that the large American financial interests in China will seek to force the hand of the President, by insisting that he already forced his hand in Cuba and Porto Rico. Against influences of this sort, leading straight to international complications of the utmost danger and seriousness, the administration cannot too early or too solidly set itself, nor can public opinion too promptly and emphatically, declare itself.

## SOUTH AFRICA.

### Baltimore Sun.

The relief of the Eland's river post for a time given up as lost—is small comfort to the British, who understand that the post cannot and so long as De Wet, Delarey, Olivier and Botha keep

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the field. These leaders make a point of visiting from time to time "pacified" districts and calling again to arms the burghers who have yielded and taken the oath of allegiance to the queen. The burghers rally again to the cause of liberty, with the result that all the western part of the Transvaal—except it has been disarmed—is again in camp almost as far westward as Mafeking. Appearances, Lord Roberts must perceive, are deceptive. Neither the Transvaal nor the Orange State is as nearly "conquered" as it seems to be.

San Francisco Call.  
It is not fair war that Roberts is making in South Africa. It is an attempt to compel the surrender of combatants by abuse of non-combatants, which is not recognized by nations nor by soldiers as within the code of war. The world may long wait for the sure retribution that will follow the tactics of Roberts and Kitchener, but the shadows of justice, or always overtakes a people who sanction such things, and the people of England owe it to themselves to purge their hearts of the spirit which permits such deeds to be done in their names.

New York Mail and Express.  
There is to be no more leniency to submitted burghers. The English authorities declare, and deportation and penal penalties are to be the lot of prisoners who violate their oath and take up arms again. It is also reported that Lord Roberts will return home in October, the theory being that the war, as a war, will then be over and that he has earned a rest. Kitchener, however, relied upon to exercise the severity which the authorities believe is needed to conclude operations. Whether the burghers have been taking up arms again because of the leniency of Lord Roberts's orders, or because of the alleged severity with which some of his subordinates have enforced them—a point about which there is controversy—will be settled by the effect of the more rigorous policy just announced.

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